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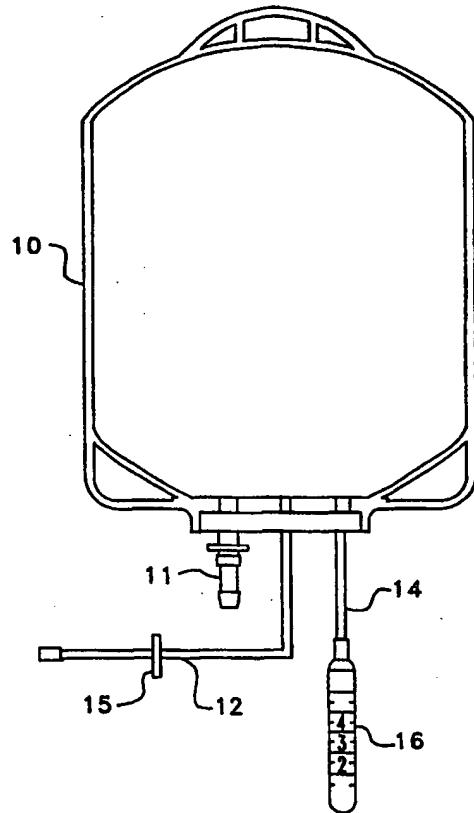
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR BLOOD COMPONENT SAMPLING

(57) Abstract

A collection system for bodily fluids that includes a collection bag (10) and a sample bulb (16) attached to the collection bag (10). The sample bulb (16) is a one piece element blow molded of material flexible enough to be hand compressed to fill the bulb (16). The method of forming the sample bulb (16) by blow molding polymer material is also provided. The shape of the sample bulb (16) is important in maintaining a constant platelet concentration.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/10152

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 A61J1/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61J A61M A61B B01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 26 54 725 A (BIOVETA N P) 8 June 1977 (1977-06-08)	1,5,6, 10,11 2,3,8, 12,13,16
Y	page 6, line 13 - line 16 page 8, line 31 -page 9, line 12 page 12, line 19 - line 33 figure 1 ---	2,3,8, 12,13,16
Y	US 5 132 026 A (BALUYOT RODOLFO C ET AL) 21 July 1992 (1992-07-21) column 3, line 18 - line 45 ---	2,3,8, 12,13,16
X	US 5 702 383 A (GEISSLER ULRICH C ET AL) 30 December 1997 (1997-12-30) column 2, line 66 -column 3, line 63 figures 2,3,6 ---	1,5,6, 9-11 -/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"g" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 September 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

10 January 2000 (10.01.00)

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/10152

C(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	the whole document ---	2,3,13, 17
X	US 4 469 254 A (HANSEN GERHARD) 4 September 1984 (1984-09-04)	10,11, 13,17
A	column 2, line 1 - line 38 figures 1,3 claim 1 ---	2,5
A	GB 1 169 954 A (HAIM GEORGE; PHIROZ ST JOHN DARA DERRICK) 12 November 1969 (1969-11-12) the whole document ---	10,11,16
X	US 4 779 768 A (ST AMAND ELMER F) 25 October 1988 (1988-10-25)	10,11
A	column 1, line 40 -column 2, line 11 column 2, line 40 - line 57 column 3, line 37 - line 46 column 5, line 14 - line 24 figure 1 ---	1-3,5, 13,17
A	WO 97 49959 A (COELHO PHILIP H ;RUBINSTEIN PABLO (US); THERMOGENESIS CORP (US)) 31 December 1997 (1997-12-31) figure 2 page 5, line 34 -page 6, line 17 -----	1,10,17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. application No.

PCT/US 99/ 10152

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-18

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-18

1.1. Claims: 1-9

A collection system for bodily fluids comprising a sample bulb wherein the sample bulb comprises a one piece element blow molded of material flexible enough to be hand compressed to fill the bulb.

1.2. Claims: 10-18

A sample bulb comprising a one-piece blow molded element having a generally cylindrical shaped main body portion, said element being formed of flexible material to allow hand compression to fill the bulb.

2. Claims: 19-20

A method of forming a one-piece sample bulb.

3. Claims: 21-26

A method of providing a sample for analysis comprising hand compressing a sample bulb, sealing and severing the sample bulb.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PL /US 99/10152

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